

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 5, and 9, and add new claim 20, so that a complete set of the pending claims will read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): A paperless image fax-scanning apparatus, comprising:
an image scanning unit for scanning a document to generate ~~[[an]]~~ image data;
a faxing unit connected to a telephone line for transmitting the image data generated from the image scanning unit or receiving fax image data *via* the telephone line;
a data storage unit, which ~~can be~~is connected to a portable data storage medium, for storing the fax image data received by the faxing unit in the portable data storage medium;

an input interface, which comprises an operation keyboard for inputting operation signals into the paperless image fax-scanning apparatus; and

a control unit for controlling the operation of the paperless image fax-scanning apparatus, wherein the control unit transfers the fax image data received by the faxing unit to the data storage unit and stores the fax image data in the portable data storage medium;

wherein the paperless image fax-scanning apparatus excludes printing facilities that directly produce printout and is operable independently without control of a personal computer so as to save paper with the operation of the paperless image fax-scanning apparatus.

2. (Currently Amended): The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim further comprising:

a network interface through which the paperless image fax-scanning apparatus ~~can be connected~~ is connectable to a Local Area Network (LAN).

3. (Original): The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 2, wherein the LAN is a Local Area Network with Ethernet protocol.

4. (Currently Amended): The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a printer interface for connecting the image fax-scanning apparatus to a printer through which the fax image data received by the faxing unit ~~can be printed out~~ is printable.

5. (Currently Amended): The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a display panel for displaying ~~[[the]]~~ operation data inputted by the user and the status of the image fax-scanning apparatus.
6. (Original): The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a peripheral equipment interface for connecting with peripheral equipment.
7. (Original): The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 6, wherein the peripheral equipment interface is a Small Computer System Interface (SCSI).
8. (Original): The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 6, wherein the peripheral equipment interface is a Universal Serial Bus (USB) interface.
9. (Currently Amended): The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control unit selectively transfers the image data generated from the image scanning unit to the data storage unit ~~or stores the~~ and stores the image data in the portable data storage media.
10. (Original): The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 9, wherein the control unit is further able to selectively have the faxing unit transmit the image data stored in the portable data storage media *via* the telephone line.
11. (Original): The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 10, wherein the control unit is further able to selectively transform the image data stored in the portable data storage media to image data and have the faxing unit transmit the transformed image data *via* the telephone line.
12. (Original): The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 1, wherein the image scanning unit is a flatbed scanning device.
13. (Original): The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 11, wherein the flatbed scanning device further comprising:
an Automatic Document Feeder (ADF) corresponding to the flatbed scanning device.

14. (Original): The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 1, wherein the data storage unit is a floppy disc drive.

15. (Original): The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 1, wherein the data storage unit is a removable hard disc drive.

16. (Original): The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 1, wherein the data storage unit is a Personal Computer Memory Card International Association (PCMCIA) slot.

17. (Original): The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 1, wherein the data storage unit is a Re-Writable Compact Disc (CD-RW).

18. (Original): The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control unit is further able to screen out received fax data to decide whether the fax data should be preserved or not.

19. (Original): The paperless image fax-scanning apparatus of claim 1, wherein the input interface wirelessly transfers operation signals inputted by a user to other parts of the image fax-scanning apparatus.

20. (New): A paperless image fax-scanning apparatus for use with a portable data storage medium; the apparatus comprising:

a housing, the housing further including, either within the housing or at a surface of the housing:

an image scanning unit for scanning a document to generate image data;

a faxing unit operatively coupled to a telephone line connection at the surface of the housing, for transmitting the image data generated from the image scanning unit or receiving fax image data via a telephone line;

a data storage unit, further comprising, at the surface of the housing, a device accepting a portable data storage medium for storing the fax image data received by the faxing unit in the portable data storage medium;

an input interface at the surface of the housing, which comprises an operation keyboard for inputting operation signals into the apparatus; and

a control unit for controlling operation of the apparatus, wherein the control unit transfers the fax image data received by the faxing unit to the data storage unit and stores the fax image data in the portable data storage medium;

wherein the apparatus excludes any printer and is independently operable by the control unit without connection to any personal computer.